(*e*) whether it is not necessary to have such bushes inserted at the ends of conduit pipes through which cables are taken ; and

(*f*) whether or not such precaution is taken in the wiring of the Kowdiyar Palace ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The support wire was live due to leakage of current.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The service lines are taken from the post by properly insulated shackles. The service lines are of lead covered V. I. R., extra protection being afforded by effective earthing.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Yes, when conduit pipes are used.

(*f*) The question does not arise as the service in this case is by means of underground cable.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know, Sir, whether the Electric Department repaired the leakage in the Royal Stables some time before ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I claim notice, Sir.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know, Sir, whether ordinarily this lead-casing is the protection given to lines, to cables or iron tubes, used for conducting the cables ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I do not follow. I claim notice.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether it is not likely that the casing in these lines is likely to be damaged, owing to weather ?

PRESIDENT : It is only a matter of opinion.

Complaints against the Midwife, Anna Mathew, in the Women and Children's Hospital, Taikad.

224. ***MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Quilon I*): Will the Government be plased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a midwife by name Anna Mathew in the Women and Children's Hospital, Taikad ;

(*b*) whether there were complaints against her by the patients or the relatives of patients ;

(*c*) whether she has received any kind of departmental punishment for her conduct towards patients ;

(*d*) whether she is a Roman Catholic ;

(*e*) whether she told one Mr. K. R. Das (Aloomood, Statue Road) that he is a sinner, and that he is suffering so much, because he an L. M. S. Christian, married a Roman Catholic girl ; and

(*f*) whether midwife Anna Mathew scolded the patient E. Ponnamma in the presence of other midwives, when Ponnamma cried aloud on account of pain on the 17th, 18th or 19th December 1933 ?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. The correspondence is treated as confidential.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) and (*f*) It was so alleged in a petition presented by Mr. K. R. Das.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether Government has taken any action on this subordinate?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The answer is there in part (*c*).

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): What is the punishment meted out?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is confidential, Sir.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether it is already meted out?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI ((*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether Government expect the punishment to be kept confidential even after it has been meted out?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have treated it as confidential.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know the reason for that?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have decided like that.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether a written explanation was taken from the officer concerned before he was punished?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Darbar Physician reports that he has taken statements; they may be oral or written.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): With reference to the answer to part (*e*), may I know whether any evidence was taken on the allegations contained in the petition referred to in part (*e*) of the question?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The petition was sent to the Darbar Physcian. He enquired into the complaints and submitted his report.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Government were satisfied that the allegations hinted in part (*e*) were true?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Darbar Physician has reported that the petition is true in its main aspects.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Am I to understand that the Darbar Physicians's report did not specifically refer to the various allegations contained in the petition?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He has not made any specific statement about all the allegations.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Am I to understand that the Government did not consider the allegations contained in the petition serious enough for evidence to be taken?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government were satisfied with the report of the Darbar Physician, and acted accordingly.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Am I to understand that the Government have informed the person whom they have punished that she should not give out the punishment meted out to her?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have treated the correspondence as confidential; the letter sent to the Darbar Physician was marked confidential; and Government take it that the communication sent to the officer concerned must also have been marked confidential.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Do not the Government think that, if the other subordinates of the department come to know of the punishment, it would serve as an object lesson to them?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government were alive to that aspect of the question; and still, in this case, they decided to treat the whole matter as confidential.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the circumstances which induced the Government to keep the punishment confidential?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): On a consideration of all aspects of the case, Government decided like that.

PRESIDENT: The position of Government is that the whole case has been treated as confidential and not the punishment alone.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Am I right in taking it that the Chief Secretary said that the punishment meted out to the midwife could not be communicated to this House?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: As part of the case.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): When the case has been disposed of, what is the circumstance that induced Government to consider the punishment as so very confidential as not to be divulged to the members of this House?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I may also say, Sir, that Government have received, since they decided the question, representations from the officers concerned; and the matter may have to be reconsidered in the light of these representations.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I take it that the Government are now satisfied that they have been in the wrong?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Far from it. When an officer is punished or is not given his due promotion, he usually sends in revision petitions and memorials for a reconsideration of his case. In such cases, even after a decision has been arrived at, Government may reconsider the original decision if any fresh facts are brought to light.

PRESIDENT: Members should not import their own inferences. All that the Government member said was that, although the Government have decided the case and awarded punishments as they considered fit, it has again come up before them in that those who were punished have submitted memorials and that the matter is therefore receiving their consideration once more. That does not mean that the Government have felt that they were wrong.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether there have been other cases of similar confidential punishments in the past?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know at least the kind of punishment, fine, suspension, warning, etc.? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: I do not think that you can succeed, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai. The Government member has already told you that he cannot disclose what the punishment is.

Complaints against the authorities of the Women and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum.

225. *MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether petitions from Mr. K. R. Das, ('Aloomood, Statue Road,') Trivandrum, complaining against the authorities of the Women and Children's Hospital, Taikad, Trivandrum were received by—

(i) the Dewan,
(ii) the Chief Secretary to Government, and
(iii) the Darbar Physician

in December 1933 or after that:

(*b*) if so, whether any action has been taken on that; and

(*c*) if not, why not?

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